

Name:

Date:

Class:

## *A Raisin in the Sun* Exam Information

### **Introduction:**

You have the choice over which exam to take to assess your understanding of *A Raisin in the Sun*.

One option is a written exam, which would be similar to other reading quizzes and exams you have taken this year. The other option is an oral exam, in which you answer questions about the play verbally in a one-on-one conversation with Mr. Green. The questions for both exams will be similar to each other, so choose the exam option that you feel best fits your strengths as a student.

### **Which option is best for me?**

This is a tricky question, and one you should only answer once you have considered your strengths and weaknesses as a student. See the guide below for assistance.

#### **You should take the *written exam* if...**

- You feel better being able to think about and consider your response before answering a question.
- You feel more comfortable taking your time answering each question -- you do not want to feel rushed or pressured by time.
- You can “erase” a response -- if you do not like what you have written, you can erase it all and answer it differently.
- You do not participate in class discussions often (due to shyness, discomfort talking in front of crowds, uncertainty about whether your answers are correct, and so on.)
- You are uncomfortable being “put on the spot” about a response -- being asked to clarify, explain, or elaborate on an answer you provide.
- You feel confident in your ability to express yourself in writing

#### **You should take the *oral exam* if...**

- You enjoy and feel confident speaking aloud -- in discussions, seminars, giving speeches, performances, and so on.
- You can adequately organize answers to questions and present them when asked.
- Your knowledge and understanding of *A Raisin in the Sun* is strong, so if you were asked follow-up questions on the spot, you could answer it adequately.
- You are prepared to practice your responses. You will not be able to answer the questions “on the fly”; rather, you will need to practice your verbal responses several times leading up to the test.

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**If you choose the written exam, here is what your test will look like:**

- Two sections: A poem analysis and a quote analysis.
  - The first, the poem analysis, will ask you to make connections between the poem that opens the play (“What happens to a dream deferred?.....) with events from the story.
  - The second, the quote analysis, will ask you to identify the speaker, describe the context, and explain the significance of three (out of a five) quotes on the exam.
    - The written exam review will have all of the quotes that could show up on the exam, so you can prepare ahead of time (but you will not know which quotes will ultimately be on it).
- Open book exam -- you can use your book.
- You will have one class period to complete the exam

**If you choose the oral exam, here is what your test will look like:**

- Choice of two answers to prepare, one from each “section” of questions
  - That is, you will see the questions beforehand and you will prepare responses to the two questions you choose to answer.
- Open “note” -- you will be allowed to use one 3 x 5 note card to prepare notes while presenting your responses. **You will *not* be able to use your book.**
- I will give you 30 seconds to get your thoughts and notes together for each question, then you will have two minutes to say your response when your 30 seconds of preparation is up (or you begin speaking). This is true for each question.
- Once you finish your response, you may be asked follow-up questions if your response is not clear, or if Mr. Green wants you to think even more deeply about the question or answer.

**THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT WHICH  
TEST FORMAT WORKS BEST FOR  
YOU BEFORE YOU DECIDE!**